

## In JP, Canary Square is a comfort



Uzuri Wilkerson (left) and Waverly Kidd at Canary Square restaurant in Jamaica Plain. (Essdras M Suarez/Globe Staff)

By [Devra First](#)

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### Canary Square

**435 South Huntington Ave., Jamaica Plain 617-524-2500**

**[www.canarysquare.com](http://www.canarysquare.com)**

When the Alchemist closed, Jamaica Plain lost one neighborhood hangout but gained another. Michael Moxley and Jim Cochener, the duo behind Common Ground in Allston and Coda in the South End, opened Canary Square in November. They knocked down a wall

and opened up the space, installing a reclaimed-wood bar. And for their executive chef, they brought in Marco Suarez, who knows the area well. He was previously at Bon Savor on Centre Street; he has also cooked at Eastern Standard. (And look for him in an upcoming season of the Food Network's "Chopped.")

Suarez is focused on using local, seasonal ingredients. (Last summer, he helped the folks at Dorchester's Ledge Kitchen & Drinks install a sizable roof garden. Perhaps we'll see one atop Canary Square?) With them, he creates a menu of comfort food classics with a twist. Lighter bites could include popcorn of the day, salt cod fritters, charcuterie, and salads. You might find a wood-roasted pulled chicken sandwich or an SLT (smoked salmon, lettuce, and tomato with spicy remoulade), Guinness beef barley stew or taleggio mac and cheese. For anyone who was a fan of Suarez's steak with chimichurri at Bon Savor, a version of it reappears here. And, yes, brunch is coming soon.

Moxley and Cochener have a track record when it comes to creating neighborhood standbys. They did it three years ago with Coda. And this time it's Moxley's own neighborhood; he's a longtime resident who knows what JP is missing. Pair Canary Square's homey yet creative dishes with 30 draft beers, seasonal cocktails, and an emphasis on value (just about everything is less than \$20), and this could become a much-needed new standby for the area. ■